

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present paper claim 13 will have been amended to clarify the claim language therein, with claims 1-29 remaining pending for consideration by the Examiner. This paper is being submitted, together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in lieu of the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312, which was submitted by Applicant on July 27, 2005 (and has not yet been entered). Thus, the claim amendments are identical to those presented in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312

Specifically, claim 13 has been amended in a manner similar to the amendment made to claim 1 in Applicant's Amendment and Response of March 18, 2005 (*i.e.*, to correct clerical errors therein). Specifically, claim 13 has been amended to recite that the lens element ---moves--- (rather than "rotates) along the optical axis, to recite that the at least one engaging projection can be inserted into and removed ~~into and~~ from said at least one circumferential groove through said insertion/removable hole, and to recite that the stopper is insertable into and removable ~~into and~~ from said at least one circumferential groove.


Applicant thus notes that this amendment to the claims is to be considered merely a clarifying amendment that is cosmetic in nature, and is not intended to narrow the scope of the claims. Accordingly, this amendment should not be considered a decision by Applicants to narrow the claims in any way.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and entry of the present amendment and return of the present application to allowance. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

P23683.A09.A08

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Amendment or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Will. Boshnick", written over a horizontal dashed line.

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